

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Case No. 99,252-A)**

In re Application of: )  
Mertens et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/998,889 ) Group Art Unit: 1746  
Filed: November 1, 2001 ) Examiner: Saeed T. Chaudry  
For: Method and Apparatus for Removing a )  
Liquid from a Surface )

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON APRIL 24, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 24, 2003. A petition for a one month extension of time is being filed herewith, thereby extending the period for response from July 24, 2003 until August 25, 2003. Therefore, this response is timely.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-16 are pending in the application. A terminal disclaimer is also being filed herewith. Please amend the application as follows.

**Claim Amendments** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** being on page 5 of this paper.